

Representing the Interests of America's Industrial Energy Users Since 1978

June 22, 2005

BY E-DOCKET

Mark Friedrichs PI-40
Office of Policy & International Affairs
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Re: RIN No. 1901-AB11
Draft Technical Guidelines for the revised Voluntary Reporting of Greenhouse Gases Program, 70 Fed. Reg. 15164 (March 24, 2005); and
Interim Final General Guidelines for Voluntary Greenhouse Gas Reporting, 70 Fed. Reg. 15169 (March 24, 2005).

Dear Mr. Friedrichs:

The Council of Industrial Boiler Owners (CIBO) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the Department of Energy's (DOE) March 24, 2005, Interim Final General Guidelines and draft Technical Guidelines for the Voluntary Reporting of Greenhouse Gases Program.

CIBO is a national trade association of industrial boiler owners, architect-engineers, related equipment manufacturers, and universities representing 20 major industrial sectors. CIBO was formed in 1978 to promote the exchange of information between industry and government relating to energy and environmental policies, laws, and regulations affecting industrial boilers. CIBO membership represents industries as diverse as chemical, paper, cogeneration, steel, automotive, refining, brewing, combustion engineering, and food products. CIBO members also include operators of boiler facilities at several major universities.

On energy and environmental issues, CIBO works closely with federal and state regulatory authorities, and other governmental bodies to effectuate common-sense energy and environmental regulation. CIBO maintains that environmental regulatory programs should provide industry with enough flexibility to effectively modernize—without penalty—our aging energy infrastructure, because modernization holds the key to cost-effective environmental protection.

Many CIBO members have direct experience with the Voluntary Reporting Program in its earlier and present formulations. CIBO strongly supports a continued commitment by DOE to

a voluntary-only reporting program and supports all reasonable efforts to reform positively the existing program. Regarding the General and Technical Guidelines at issue here, CIBO incorporates by reference and supports the comments submitted by DuPont, the American Chemistry Council (ACC), and the comments on the General and Technical Guidelines of the American Forest and Paper Association (AF&PA).

CIBO highlights three specific concerns with the General and Technical Guidelines: the level of burden to report and register emissions, the *de minimis* emissions percentage, and the need for flexibility in base line and reporting/registration/calculation methodology. Overall, CIBO recommends that the proposed reporting regulations better reflect and to be coordinated with other efforts already under way to reduce greenhouse gases (ghg).


As written, Guidelines are complicated and will require an excessive effort to report and register. CIBO urges DOE to make available and seek comment on draft reporting forms, to permit reporters to resolve questions before reporting periods begin. Reporters would also benefit from DOE examples and sample completed forms, which will provide guidance on matters that may require some interpretation. CIBO urges DOE to seek comment on any such samples before issuing final forms.

CIBO recommends increasing the *de minimis* threshold from 3% to 5% of annual emissions. Increasing this percentage from the proposed 3% would make emissions calculations more efficient and focused on emissions calculations rather than on *de minimis* determinations. Other ghg registries utilized have adopted a 5% *de minimis* standard. Coordination with established registries would improve reporting efficiency.

CIBO supports more flexibility in determining a base period and emissions calculations for reporting requirements. Other ghg emission programs have established four-year base periods different from the 2002 earliest start year (last year of the base period) under these Guidelines. Where sources have already calculated base periods and begun reporting or registering under another ghg emissions program, CIBO urges DOE to revise the Guidelines to permit the use of those base-period calculations. Similarly, CIBO recommends flexibility in methodologies for emission calculation, reporting and registration. This will help create an incentive for sources to report and register emissions reductions. Coordination of environmental efforts, particularly voluntary reporting requirements, is key to their successful implementation because this eases the burden on entities likely to report emissions.

Overall, CIBO encourages DOE to streamline procedures, incorporate flexibility and promote coordination with existing reporting programs. If you have questions regarding these comments, or would find helpful additional information from CIBO, please contact me at 703-250-9042.

Very truly yours,


Robert D. Bessette
President

Council Of Industrial Boiler Owners

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